

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-17 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claim 17 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-17 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukasawa et al. (6,914,267) in view of Wilson (6,299,328).

Claim 17 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-16 have been allowed.

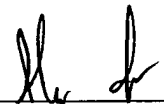
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 259052003400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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